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FOR WHA/CEN - ROIS BEAL, INR/B

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PINR](#) [BH](#)
SUBJECT: BIO -- BELIZE PRIME MINISTER DEAN BARROW

REF: 07 BELMOPAN 0287

¶1. Dean Oliver Barrow was elected Prime Minister of Belize on February 7, 2008. Following is his biography.

Address as: Mr. Prime Minister, Prime Minister Barrow

Full Title: The Honourable Dean Barrow

DPOB: March 2, 1951, Belize City

¶2. Education:

Barrow received his Bachelor of Law degree from the University of the West Indies (1973) and his legal Education Certificate from Norman Manley Law School, Jamaica (1975). He earned his Master of Law and Master of Arts in International Relations degrees from the University of Miami, Florida in 1982.

¶3. Career/Employment:

He entered private practice in 1975 as an associate with Lindo's Law Firm and was admitted to Belize Bar in 1976. In 1977, he became a partner of this firm. He is considered to be one of Belize's most successful lawyers and has been involved in many prominent cases in Belize. In 1989, Barrow left to become a partner at his own law firm, Barrow and Williams. In May 2007, Barrow left his practice to focus on his political activities in preparation for the 2008 general elections.

¶4. Political Affiliation/Work:

Barrow has been involved in politics since at least 1976, when he became legal counsel to the United Democratic Party. He was elected to the House of Representatives in December 1984, after his first electoral win in the Queen Square division. Barrow has run in six elections and has never lost his Queen's Square division and has never moved out of this constituency. During the period 1993-1998, he was called "Minister of Everything" because of his involvement in many of the UDP's activities.

He served as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Economic Development from 1984 to 1989 and as Attorney General in 1986. He was also Deputy Leader of the United Democratic Party in 1990 and served as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, National Security and Attorney General from 1993 to 1998. Barrow has been the Leader of the United Democratic Party since September 1998.

In the 2008 General Elections held February 7, 2008, the UDP won 25 of the 31 seats in the House of Representative, making him Prime Minister Designate at this time. It is expected that the Governor-General will officially swear Barrow in as the fourth Prime Minister of Belize sometime today, February 8. Barrow has said that he will most likely announce his Cabinet on Tuesday, February 12.

¶5. Family:

Barrow is the father of four children, including Jamaal "Shyne" Barrow, who was sentenced on June 1, 2001, to ten years in prison for his involvement in a December 27, 1999, nightclub shooting in

New York which left three people wounded. He is divorced from local attorney Lois Young, who is the mother of two of his children. Barrow is now in a common-law relationship with Ms. Kim Simplis, a founding member and director of Lifeline Foundation, a philanthropic charity which raises money to benefit children in need of assistance in the form of feeding programs, medical care, and educational materials. He has one daughter with Ms. Simplis.

16. Other:

Barrow speaks English and Spanish.

A photo of Dean Barrow can be found at the UDP website -- udp.org.bz; or http://www.governmentofbelize.gov.bz/legislative_houseofrep.html (without the spaces).

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